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PTO/SB/05 (4/98)

Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032

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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.:

First Inventor or Application Identifier MAKSIM KADIU

Title MAGNETIC SHORING DEVICE

Express Mail Label No. EK628928468 US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Specification [Total Pages 11]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
- ✓ - Descriptive title of the Invention
 - ✓ - Cross References to Related Applications
 - ✓ - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - ✓ - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - ✓ - Background of the Invention
 - ✓ - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - ✓ - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - ✓ - Detailed Description
 - ✓ - Claim(s)
 - ✓ - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 15]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 26]
 - a. Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

*NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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5. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Copy
 - b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement Power of
(when there is an assignee) Attorney
9. English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
11. Preliminary Amendment
12. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
13. Small Entity Statement(s) Statement filed in prior application,
(PTO/SB/09-12) Status still proper and desired
14. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
15. Other:

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

 Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP)

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Group / Art Unit: _____

Prior application information: Examiner _____

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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| Name (Print/Type) | MAKSIM KADIU | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | |
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**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))—INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

MAKSIM KADIU

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: _____

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: _____

Title: MAGNETIC SHORING DEVICE

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- the application identified above.
- the patent identified above.

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Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

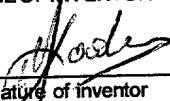
- No such person, concern, or organization exists.
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Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

MAKSIM KADIU

NAME OF INVENTOR



Signature of Inventor

April 4, 2000

Date

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

NAME OF INVENTOR

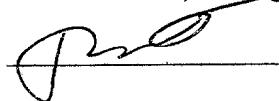
Signature of Inventor

Date

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10

MAGNETIC SHORING DEVICE

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to shoring apparatuses or devices for trenches, pits or other types
15 of open excavations employed in construction industry.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

US PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | | | |
|----|-----------|---------|--------------|---------|
| 20 | 3,530,679 | 9/1970 | Krings | 405/282 |
| | 3,910,053 | 10/1975 | Krings | 405/282 |
| | 3,950,952 | 10/1976 | Krings | 405/282 |
| | 4,145,891 | 03/1979 | Krings | 405/283 |
| | 4,274,763 | 10/1981 | Krings | 405/282 |
| 25 | 4,657,442 | 04/1987 | Krings | 405/282 |
| | 5,310,289 | 05/1994 | Hess | 405/282 |
| | 5,503,504 | 04/1996 | Hess | 405/282 |

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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This invention relates to shoring devices for open excavations such as trenches and pits. The device includes vertical rail posts spaced apart from each other along the trench and

arranged symmetrically on both sides of the trench. Opposite rail posts are kept vertically equidistant on either side of the trench by an articulated truss able to adjust the trench width. The rail post has on both sides a channel of stepped cross section. Each step constitutes a vertical guide to slide at least one shoring panel. The shoring panels slide between each corresponding guide of adjacent rail posts and, according to the number of the guides, form two or more shoring walls. Thus, the panels slide past each other creating stepped shoring wall from the top to the bottom of the excavation. The outermost and innermost steps of the shoring wall are called respectively outer and inner walls and so the panels. All other panels in between are called intermediate. The connections between rail posts and shoring panels are performed by magnetic forces engendered by magnetic flat bar incorporated in the lateral ends of the panels. For safety purposes partial locking may be used for the outer and inner panels. The intermediate panels slide completely free relative to the rail post. The articulated truss is of scissoring type composed by triangular cells only. The cross members of the truss are pinned at their mid-length allowing their relative rotation in order to adjust several trench widths; their extremities are pinned into vertical members of the truss which slide formlocking along the rail post. For very deep applications, the vertical members of the truss have lateral guides for sliding additional panels at the bottom of excavation.

It is known to provide shoring devices having vertical rail posts, shoring panels and horizontal spreaders pressing the shoring walls against side wall of the trench. Such shoring devices are called as 'Slide Rail Shoring Systems', so said hereafter.

Previous slide rail shoring systems as disclosed in US Pat. Nos. 3,910,053 and 4,657,442 (Krings), use a rail post having individual formlocking channel connections of 'C' type for sliding the panels. The load developed by the active pressure of the excavation walls is spread on very limited areas of contact between post and panel whereon the stresses are highly concentrated becoming sources of high friction and temperature during the installation and removal of the system. Thus, rough damages are engendered in both rail post and the panel, which strongly limit the application of a such system in pipeline productions, where the installation and removal of the system are effectuated continuously.

The US Pat. Nos. 5,310,289 and 5,503,504 (Hess et al.), disclose a rail post having a

unique channel for a maximum of two shoring walls, created by an outer and by an inner panel. Only the outer panel slides formlockingly within the post; the inner panel is completely free and slides inside the outer panel and the rail posts. The design of inner panel presents a risk of kicking in the trench when adjacent rail posts are not aplomb arising an important safety concern for the worker inside the trench. This phenomenon becomes
5 prominent when the depth of excavation is over 20' deep. On the other hand, shoring of excavations over 16' deep requires to stack and connect together two or more panels, which afterward must be removed at once. Removing, two or more panels at once is a very difficult task and some times impossible to accomplish even when heavy duty equipments are used.
10 Yet another matter relating this design faces the difficulty of removing the inner panel when the deflection of the upper panel is on its way. Also, it should be noted that a slide rail shoring system using unequal types of panels requires much bigger inventory in panels than its counterparts that use interchangeable types of panels.

The US Pat. Nos. 3,950,952 (Krings), 5,310,289 and 5,503,504 (Hess et al) disclose very similar strut frames of rectangular structure whose vertical members are equipped with rollers. These frames are designed to slide vertically between opposite rail posts in order to support the load coming from either side of the shoring walls. From an engineering standpoint a frame composed by a rectangular cell is not a stable structure because allows the deformations without affecting the length of its members. On the other hand, the lower horizontal strut of the frame diminishes the pipe culvert requiring special remedy solutions
15 for the installation of pipes having big diameters or of big box culverts.
20

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Substantially, the intent of present invention is to provide a shoring device of the type described above that reduce the friction and the stresses in the contacts between components, while increases the safety and eases its use in great depths. Pursuing this object
25 and others that will become explicit hereafter, one aspect of the present invention resides on the design of the rail post, which has channels of stepped cross section allowing to create

more than two shoring walls in a single channel without increasing the material expenditure and eliminating the interference between panels as well. Since the vertical guide of the rail post is of stepped cross section, it excludes the contact between rail post and back panel, while the contact area in the front panel is increased. Another new aspect of the invention is the incorporation of magnetic flat bars in the lateral ends of the panels simplifying the connections between rail post and panels reducing therefore the risk for their damage.

The first object of this invention is to present a slide rail system having partially or completely open sliding connections for the panels along the rail post. Also, it is an object of this invention to provide a rail post enabling the slide of two or more panels past each other, without need of their stacking, tremendously extending the shoring depth for a slide rail shoring system. Another object of this invention is to present an articulated truss able to adjust several trench widths, while providing a big pipe culvert and performing additional role than just supporting opposite rail posts, such that sliding additional panels in its vertical members. Also, it is the object of the invention to introduce accessory devices to be used in conjunction with the slide rail shoring system in order to increase the safety and facilitate its installation and removal. It is the final object of this invention to present a slide rail shoring system that practically has not as limit the depth of excavation.

The new features considered as characteristic for the invention are set forth in the appended claims. Other advantages of the invention will be appreciated in view of the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a sectional view of a trench showing two rail posts and an articulated truss in between.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken along the line I-I of the FIG. 1, showing the cross section of the rail post, said linear rail post, having laterally the shoring panels on either side and the top view of the vertical member of the articulated truss.

FIG. 3 is a schematic top fragmentary sectional view of a linear rail post depicting another connection with the articulated truss.

FIG. 4 is a schematic top fragmentary sectional view of a linear rail post according to the invention in FIG. 1, but with three guides for the panels.

5 FIG. 5 is a schematic top fragmentary sectional view of a linear rail post according to the invention in FIG. 1, but depicting guide channels which are completely open for sliding the panels.

FIG. 6 shows a schematic top fragmentary sectional view of a rail post, said corner rail post, that has guide channels oriented perpendicularly to each other for creating perpendicular shoring walls.

10 FIG. 7 shows a side view of the articulated truss similar to the one in the FIG 1.

FIG. 8 is a sectional view taken along the line 2-2 of the figure 7, showing the pin connections between cross and vertical members of the truss.

15 FIG. 9 shows a side view of the articulated truss having a horizontal strut connecting the upper part of the vertical members.

FIG 10 shows a side view of an articulated truss wherein the vertical members have on either side guide channels for sliding additional panels.

FIG. 11 shows a three dimensional view of a shoring panel depicting its main features..

FIG. 12 is a partial three-dimensional view showing the connection of the cutting edge at the bottom of the panel.

20 FIG. 13 is a three-dimensional view of the lateral end of a panel incorporating magnetic flat bars.

FIG. 14 shows a three-dimensional view of a sliding device fixed on the back of the rail post to slide formlockingly relative to another post.

25 FIG. 15 shows a frame acting simultaneously on the upper and lower pairs of the rail posts.

FIG. 16 is a three dimensional view of a hammering device to be fixed on the top of a panel for preventing its damage during installation in the ground.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to the drawings where like numerals indicate like elements, various embodiments incorporating the new features of the present invention are illustrated. The shoring device has two or more pairs of rail posts spaced from each other along the excavation. FIG. 1, illustrates a pair of rail posts **1A** and **1B**, said linear rail posts, which are located symmetrically on either side of the trench. Each rail post has laterally on either side at least two guides **2** and **3** for sliding large shoring panels between adjacent rail posts. The opposite rail posts **1A** and **1B** are kept vertically equidistant by an articulated truss **16**, which is composed by the cross members **18A** and **18B**, pinned together at their mid-length with the axle pin **19**, and by the vertical members **17A** and **17B**. As shown in FIG. 2, the panel guides **2A** and **3A** are inside a unique channel of stepped cross section shaped by the pieces **8**, **9A**, **10A**, and the angle **11A**. The round bars **14A** and **15A** lock partially the shoring panels **5A** and **6A**, which shape thereby respectively an outer and an inner shoring wall. The front side of the rail post, looking inside the excavation, has a 'C' channel shaped by the pieces **9A**, **9B**, **10A**, **10B** and **13**, wherein slides one vertical member of the articulated truss been horizontally locked by the T shaped piece **20**. The load originated on the excavation wall is transmitted from the panels to the articulated truss through the rail post and the rollers **21A** and **21B** which are supported by the axles **22** and the axle holder **23** located at the extremities of the vertical member **17** of the truss. As shown in the FIG. 3, the channel for sliding connection between the articulated truss and the rail post could be outer to the rail post and made by two angle pieces **26A** and **26B**. As shown in the FIG. 4, the rail post could have laterally intermediate panel guides **4A** and **4B** shaped respectively by the angle pieces **12A** and **12B**. Therefore, an intermediate shoring wall is created by the shoring panels **7A** and **7B**.

FIG. 5 shows a top fragmentary sectional view of a rail post for pit applications, said corner rail post. The steps **11A** and **11B** are within perpendicular plans for sliding the panels **5A** and **5B** shaping adjacent outer shoring walls. Likewise, the steps made by the pieces **9A** and **9B** hold the panels **6A** and **6B** of the inner shoring walls.

In a corner rail post, the round bar 15 (A or B) is optional because the inner panels 6A and 6B block each other due to the load coming from perpendicular directions and the fact that the inner panel are installed after the outer one..

As shown in the FIG. 6 the channels 2A, 3A and 2B, 3B for guiding respectively the panels 5A, 6A and 5B, 6B in the linear rail post, could be completely open when using magnetic connections. The panels have the same length and mirror each other relative to the piece 13.

As shown in FIG. 7, the articulated truss 16 has triangular cells only. The cross members 18A and 18B are connected to the vertical members 17A and 17B via the extension 33, flanges 34 and the pin connector 30. The pin connector is fixed in one of the holes 31 by the pin 32. For the same length of extensions 33, the width of the truss (so of the trench), could be easily modified by fixing the pin connector from one hole 31 to another one. The articulated truss is manipulated by the lifting holes 36 of the edges 35. As shown in the FIG. 8, a nut 37 secures the pin 32 of the connector 30. FIG. 9 shows a horizontal strut 38 used within articulated truss 16. The strut 38 is connected to the vertical members of the truss via contact flanges 40 and the pin 39. Yet another type of the articulated truss 16 is shown in the FIG. 10, where the vertical members 17A and 17B are extended way below the rollers 21A and 21B creating the guides 4A and 4B for sliding additional panels in very deep excavations.

As shown in the FIG. 11, the shoring panel has the guides 41 and 42 to slide inside the rail post, lifting plates 47 provided with a hole 48 and a cutting edge 43 fixed at the bottom by the pin or bolt 50. To prevent damages on the panel, the upper part of it is composed by two square tubes 46A and 46 B slightly from each other and a cover plate 45. The bottom and the top of the panel are identical and it can be used both ways. A thin flat plate 44, said skin, could be used between lifting plates 47, which means in the middle part of the panel only, to reinforce and reduce the bending of the panel due to the moment which increase parabolically from zero at its ends to a maximum at the middle. On the other hand, a such skin protect the panel exactly in the area where the bucket of the excavator is the most active.

The cutting edge **43** shown in the FIG. 12, is pinned or bolted to the panel by the pins **50A** and **50B** via the plates **51A** and **51B** provided with holes respectively **52A** and **52B**.

FIG. 13 illustrates another shoring panel **5** which performs magnetic connection with linear and/or corner rail post by incorporating magnetic flat bars **54** on the sides of the panel guide **41**. To prevent the damages on the magnetic flat bars, two plates **53** are fixed on the guide **41** to support the pressure of contact between post and panel.

As shown in the FIG. 14, a sliding device **55** could be fixed by the bolts **54A** and **54B** on the back side of a rail post **1** when the depth of excavation is great and the need to slide a pair of rail post within another one is needed. The sliding device **55** has a formlocking T shaped piece **53** that goes inside the 'C' channel in front of the other rail post identical to the 'T' shaped piece **20** of the articulated frame in the FIG. 1. As shown in the FIG. 15, the truss supporting the pairs of rail posts acts simultaneously on the upper pair of rail posts, **1A** and **1B**, through the rollers **21A**, **21B** and on the lower pair of rail posts, **1C** and **1D**, via the rollers **21C**, **21D**. The truss could be of articulated type as indicated schematically by the dash-dot line or as a rectangular frame. The FIG. 16 shows another accessory device to be fixed on the top of the panel **5** to prevent damages during the installation of the system. The accessory device is made by welding together the two plates **57** and **58** and can be pinned or bolted by the pin **60** within the hole **48** and **59**.

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 5 1. A device for shoring trenches comprising:
- a) at least four rail posts, said linear rail posts, spaced a part along the trench en pairs and symmetrically on either side of the trench; each rail post having laterally on either side a channel of stepped cross section shaping two or more steps each of them making up a vertical guide completely or partially open.
 - 10 b) at least four large shoring panels, each of them sliding between adjacent rail posts creating on either side of the trench a multi-step shoring wall of two or more steps; each panel having laterally on either side a vertical guide channel and/or magnetic flat bars for the connection with the rail post.
 - c) at least two articulated trusses sliding formlockingly along opposite rail posts; each truss been of scissoring type and composed uniquely by triangular cells; the cross members of the truss been pinned at their middle making free their relative rotation while their extremities are pinned in the vertical members, these lasts having several row of pinning holes.
- 15 20 2. A device for shoring pits comprising:
- a) at least four rail posts, said corner rail posts, arranged vertically on each corner of the pit, each rail post having two vertical channels within two perpendicular plans; each channel having stepped cross section shaping two or more steps each of them making up a vertical guide completely or partially open.
 - b) at least eight large shoring panels as set forth in the claim 1, each panel sliding between adjacent rail posts creating on each side of the pit a multi-step shoring wall of two or more steps.

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3. A shoring device obtained as combination of the shoring devices as set forth in the claims 1 and 2.
 4. A shoring device, said slide rail shoring system, wherein the connection between rail post and panel is carried out by magnetic forces engendered by magnetic flat bars incorporated either in the rail post or the panel.
5
 5. A rail post as set forth in the claim 1, wherein the outermost and/or the innermost step guide have partial locking for the panels.
 - 10 6. A rail post as set forth in the claim 1, wherein the length of the step guides is between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{7}{8}$ of the total length of the rail post.
 - 15 7. A rail post as set forth in the claims 1 or 2, whereon a vertical guide is mechanically attached on its back side enabling a pair of such rail posts to slide within another pair of rail post, repetitively if necessary and analogically to telescopic concept.
 - 20 8. An articulated truss as set forth in the claim 1, wherein the vertical members have lateral guide channels for sliding one or more additional shoring panels past each other.
 - 25 9. An articulated truss as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one spreader connects its vertical members, either at their top or mid level.
 10. An articulated truss as set forth in claim 1, wherein the vertical members are equipped with rollers.
 11. A shoring panel incorporating magnetic flat bar at their lateral ends to ensure the connections within rail post.

12. A shoring panel wherein the cutting edge is fixed by bolts or pins and could be detached at any time as needed.
13. A shoring panel as set forth in the claim 11, wherein two rectangular steel tubes are welded on the top and the bottom, which are covered with a flat bar.
- 5
14. A shoring panel as set forth in the claim 11, whereon a thin steel plate is added on one or either side of the panel between lifting plates and cover it from the top until the cutting edge.
- 10
15. A hammering device of steel or other materials, pinned on the top of the shoring panel and covering only a small part of it for preventing damages on the panel from mechanical forces.
- 15
- ABSTRACT
- This apparatus relates to shoring of deep excavations such as pits or trenches. It includes vertical rail posts arranged symmetrically in pairs which are spaced from each other along the excavation, articulated trusses holding opposite rail posts against each other and large shoring panels sliding between adjacent rail posts on either side of the excavation. Each rail post has on either side one channel of stepped cross section guiding vertically two or more shoring panels. The connections between the post and the panel are partially or completely open. The open connections are performed by magnetic forces engendered by thin magnetic flat bars incorporated in the posts or the panels in the area of their contact. The articulated truss is of scissoring type composed of triangular cells only and their members have pinned connections. The cross members of the truss are pinned together in their mid-length enabling their relative rotation while their extremities are pinned into the vertical members which have several rows of pinning holes in order to adjust the width of the trench without need for additional spreaders. The vertical members of the truss slide formlocking between pair of opposite posts and could be adjusted at any level from the bottom of excavation.
- 20
- 25

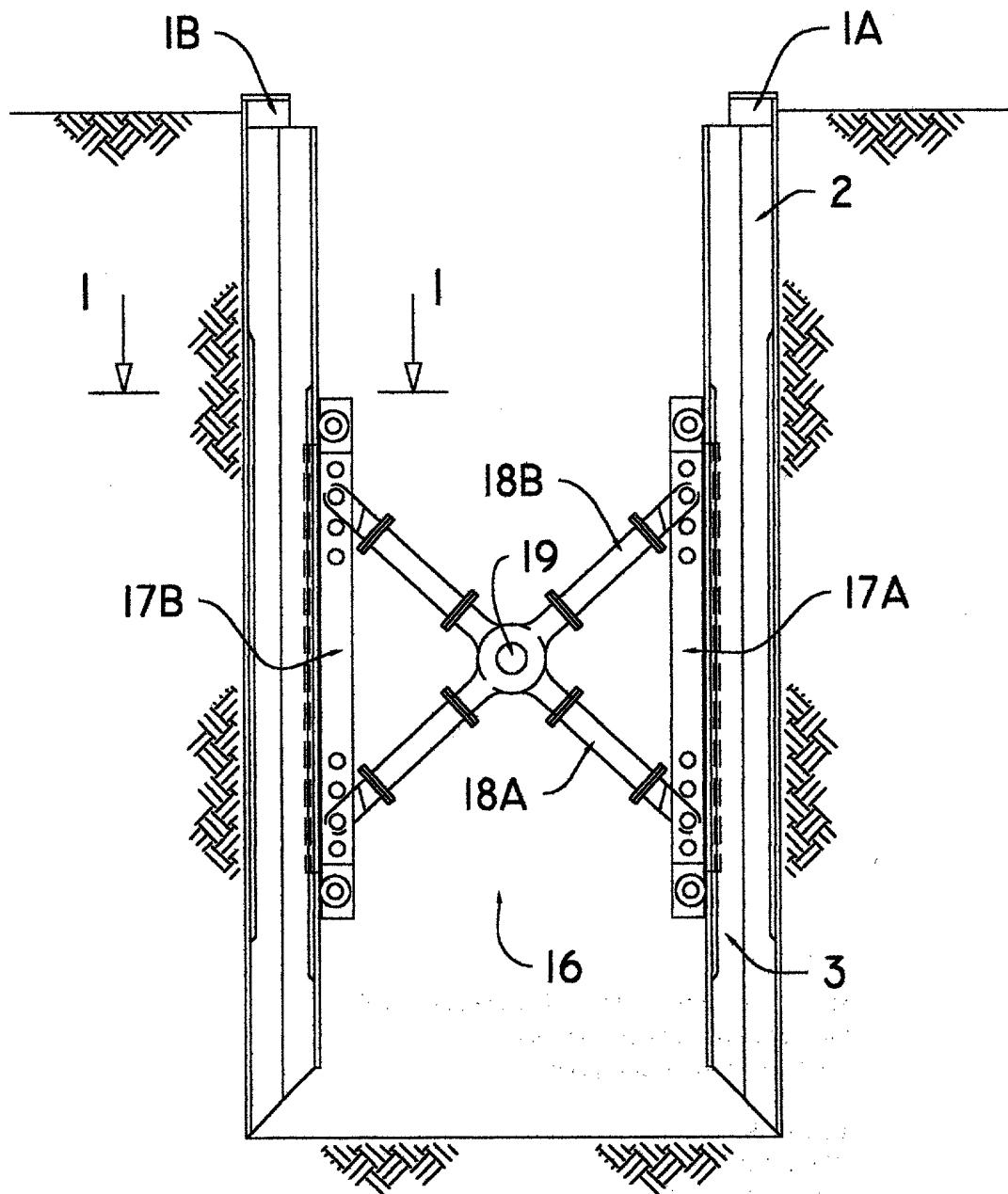


FIG. I

VIEW I-I

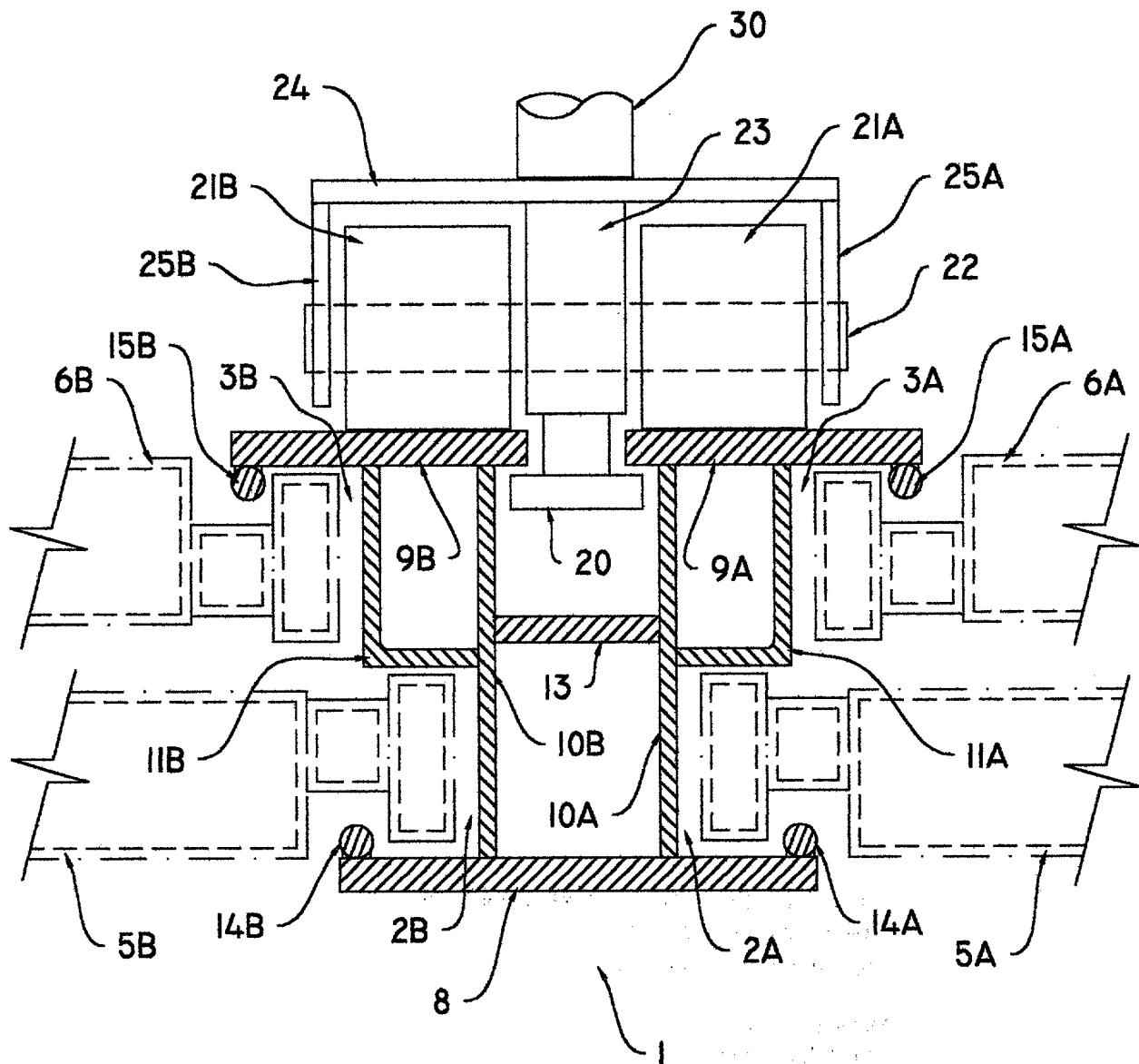


FIG. 2

VIEW I-I

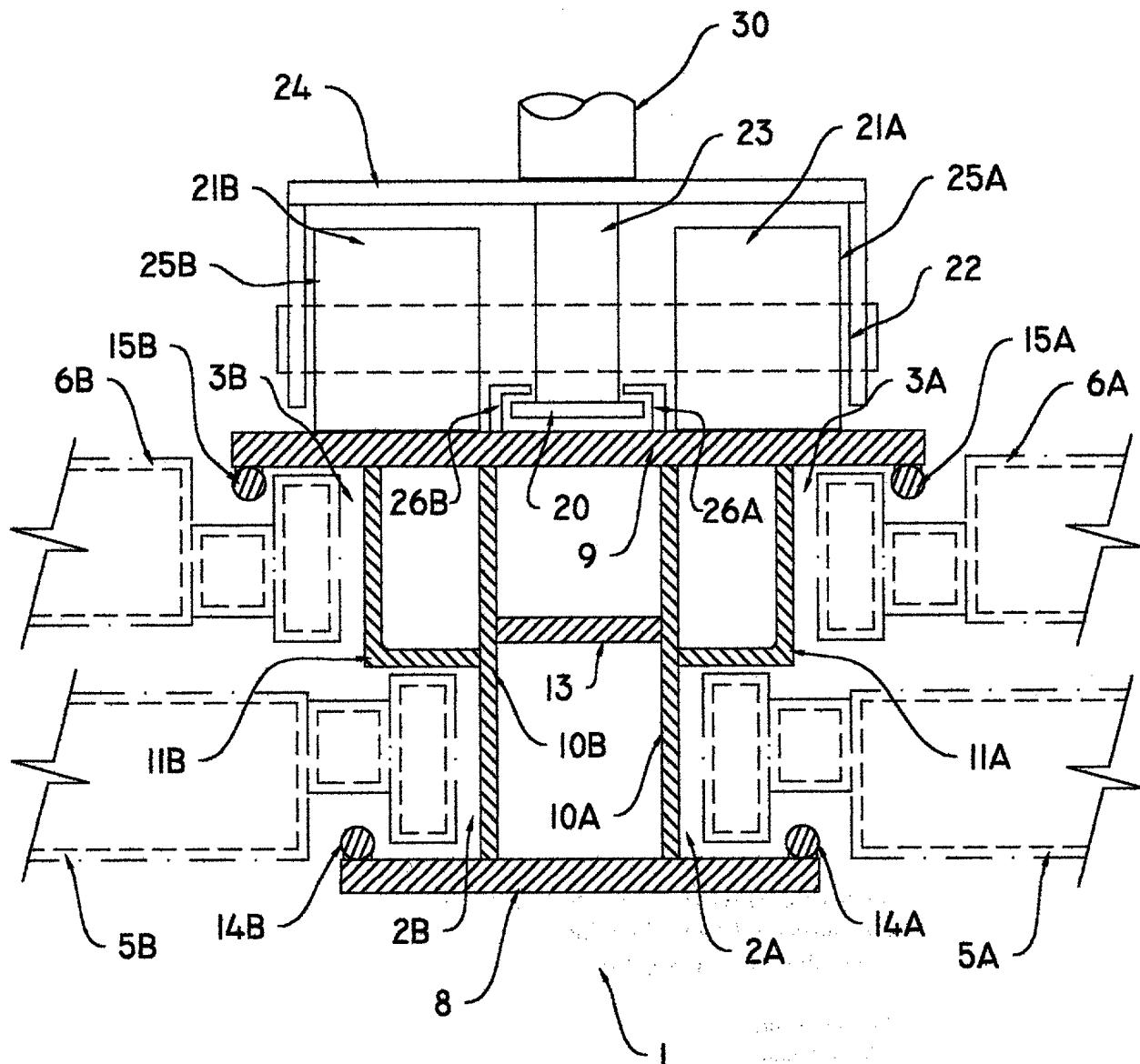


FIG. 3

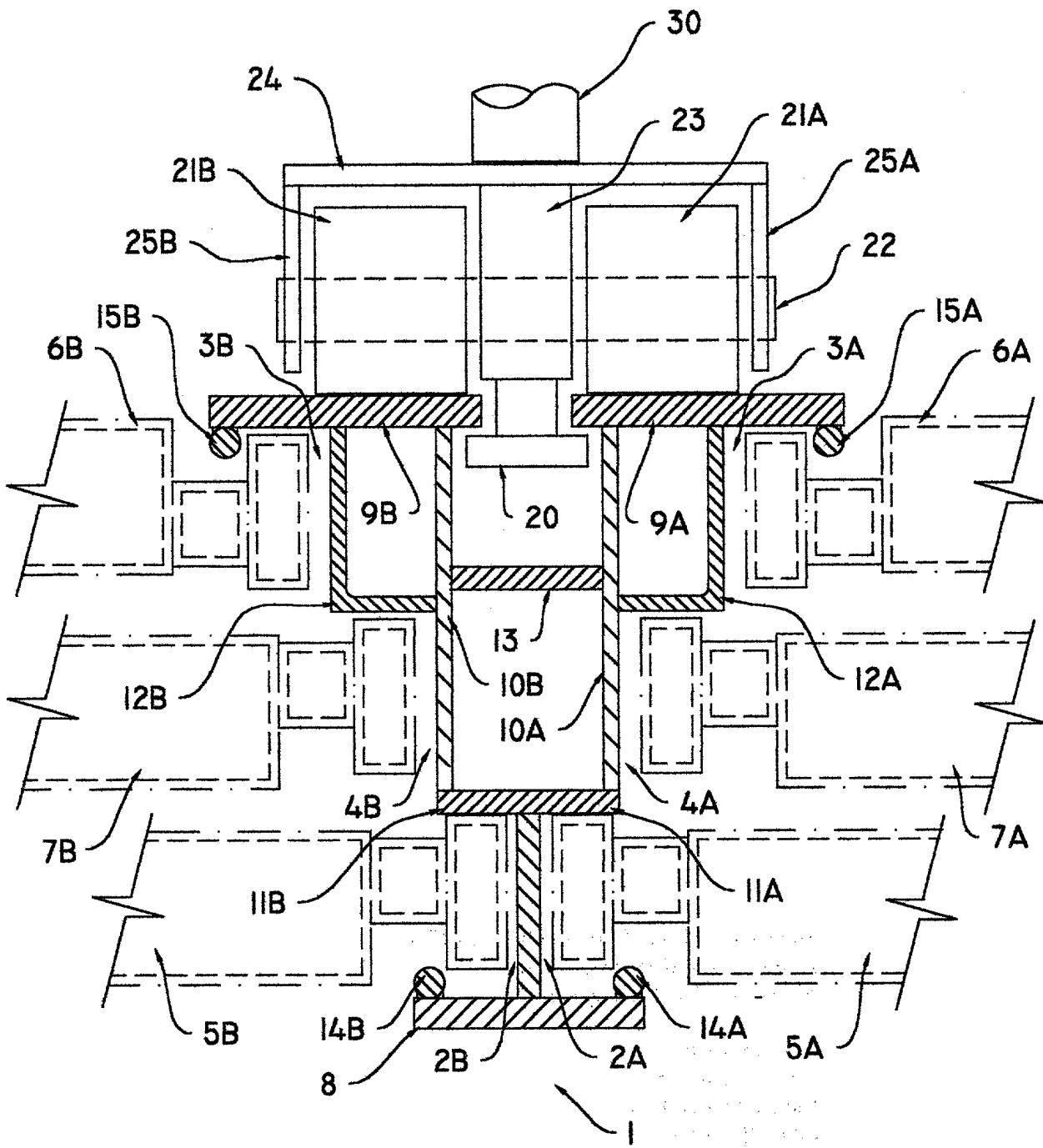


FIG. 4

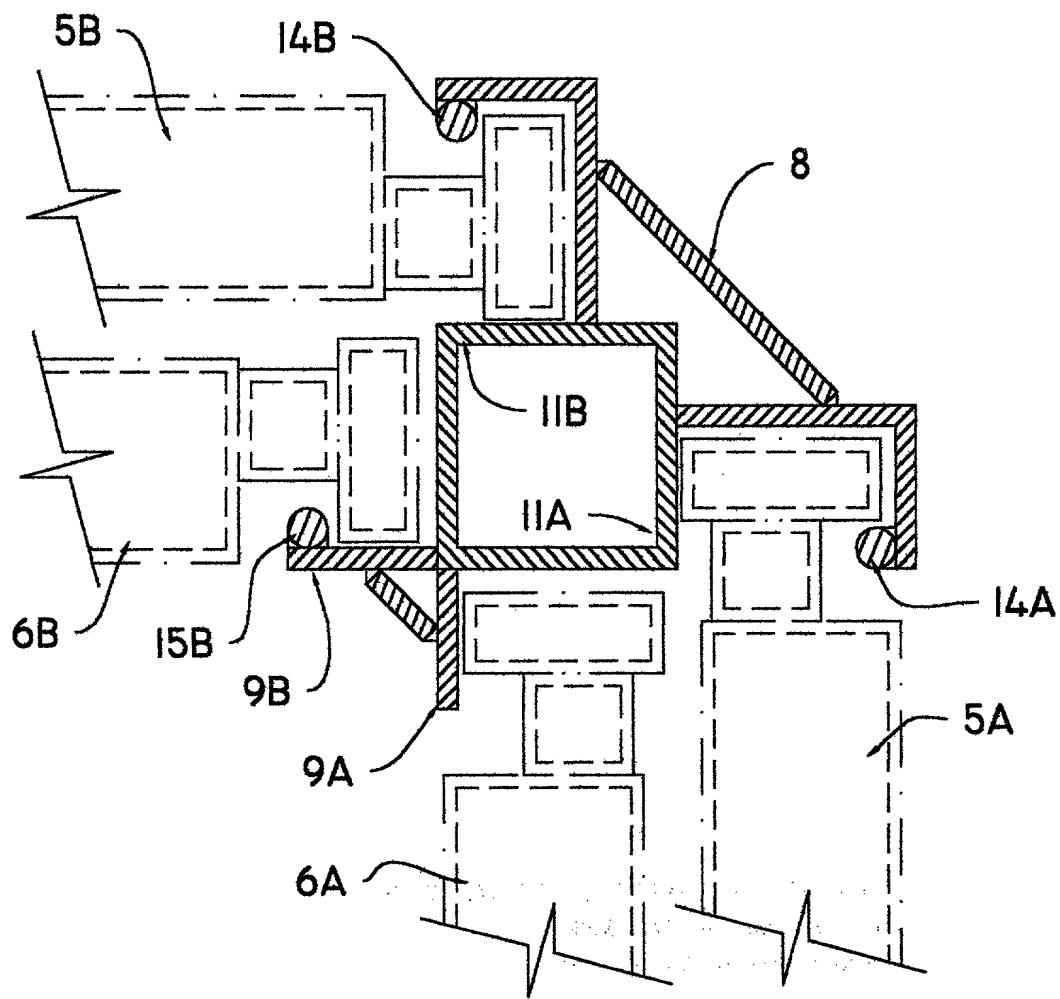


FIG. 5

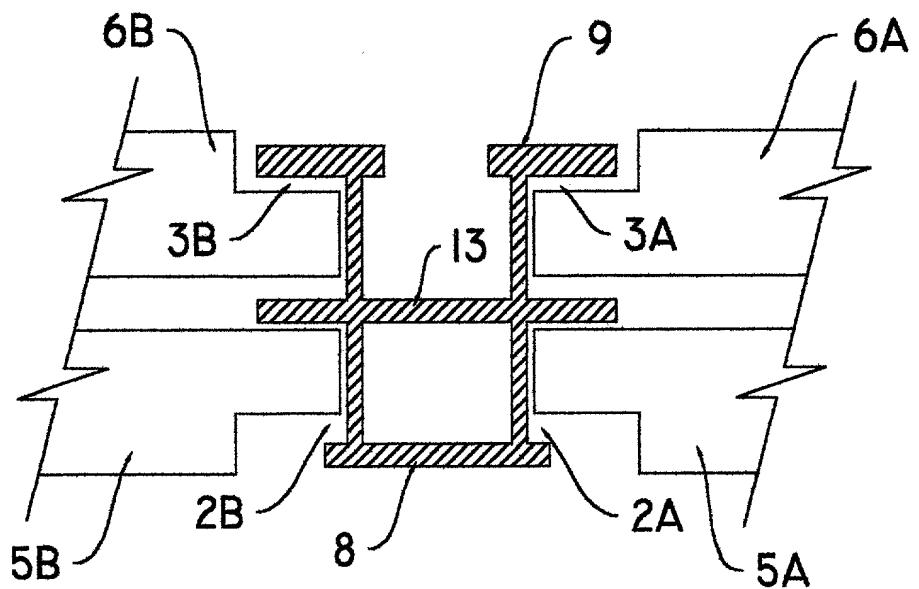


FIGURE 6

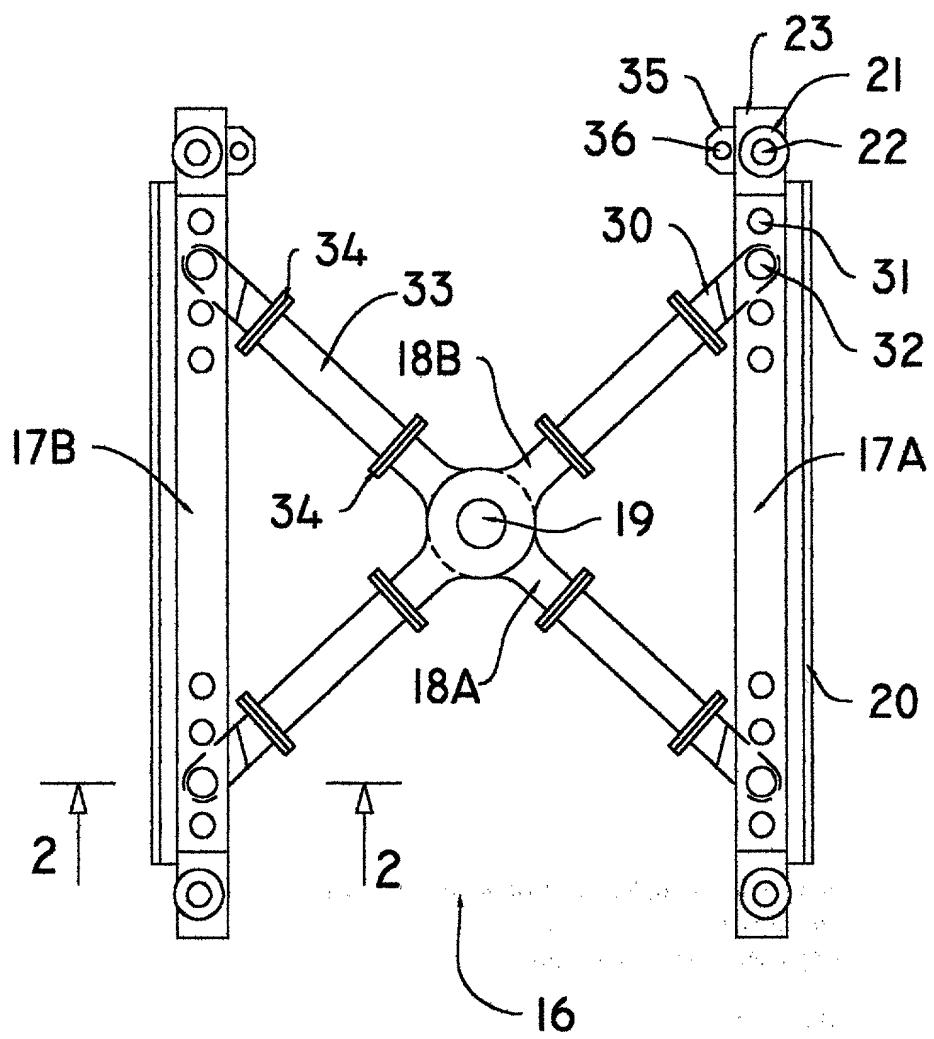
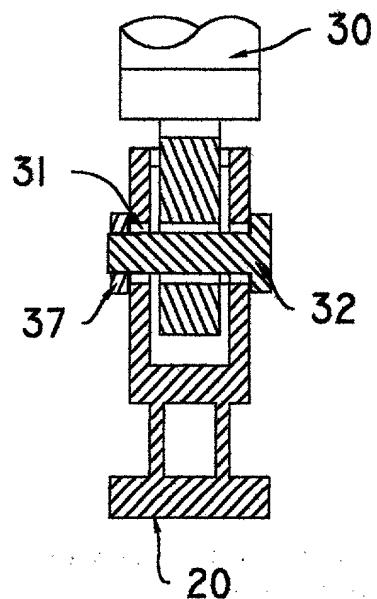


FIG. 7

VIEW 2-2**FIG. 8**

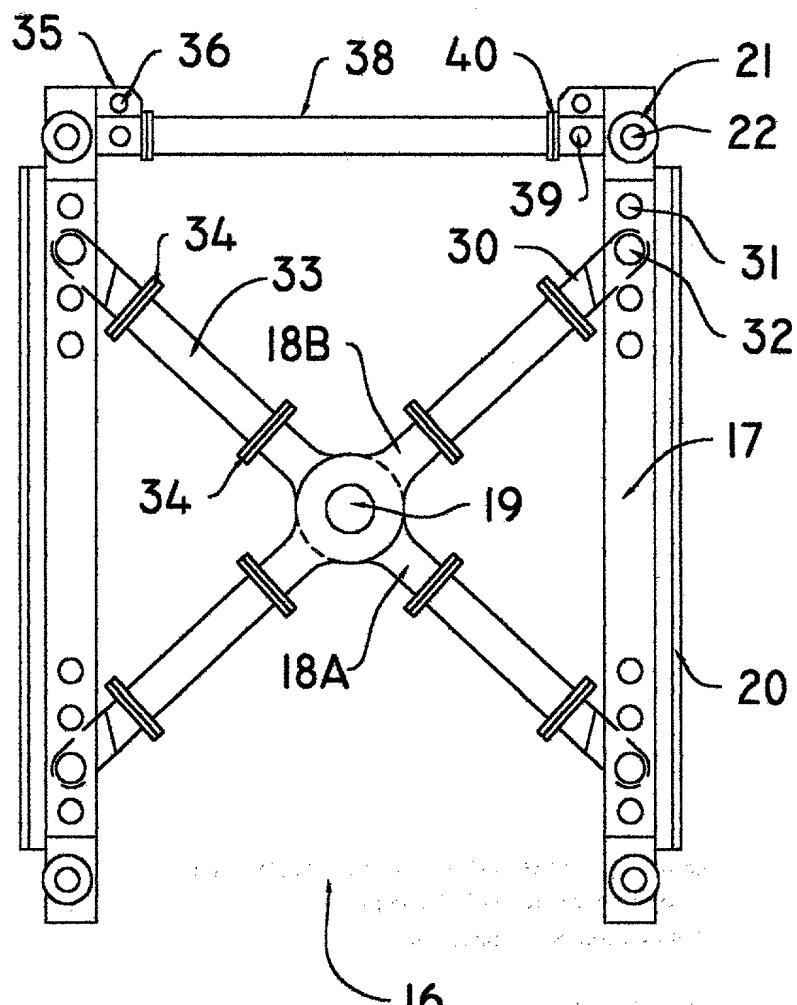


FIG. 9

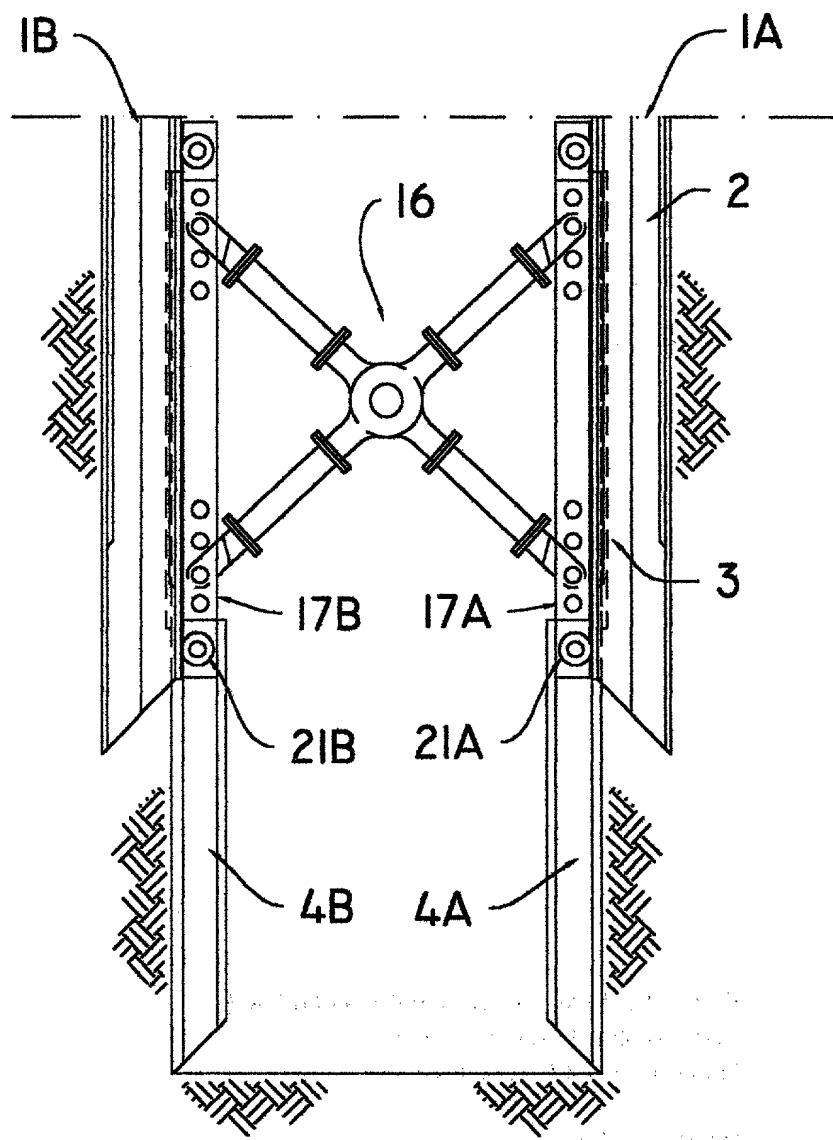
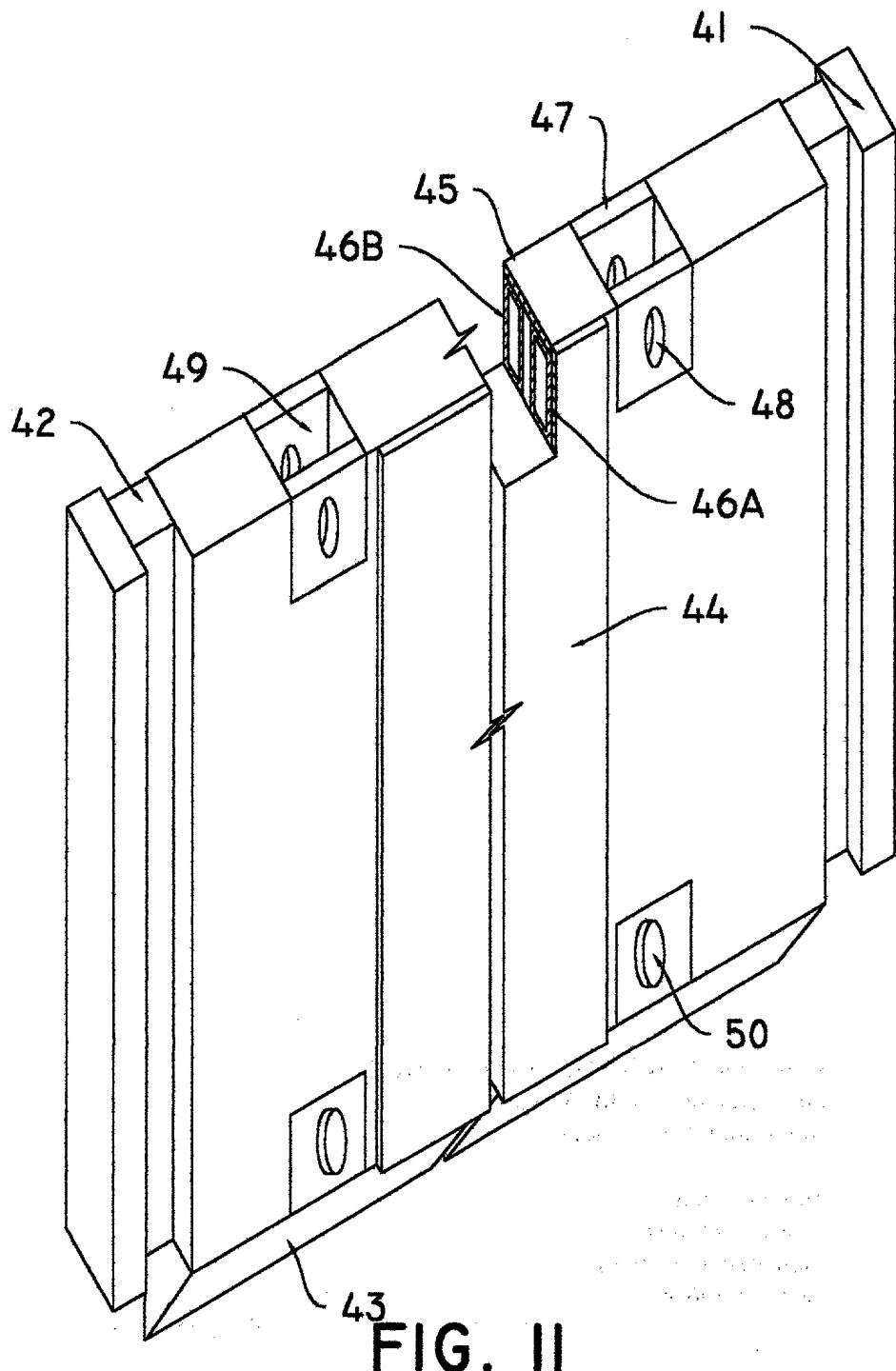


FIG. 10



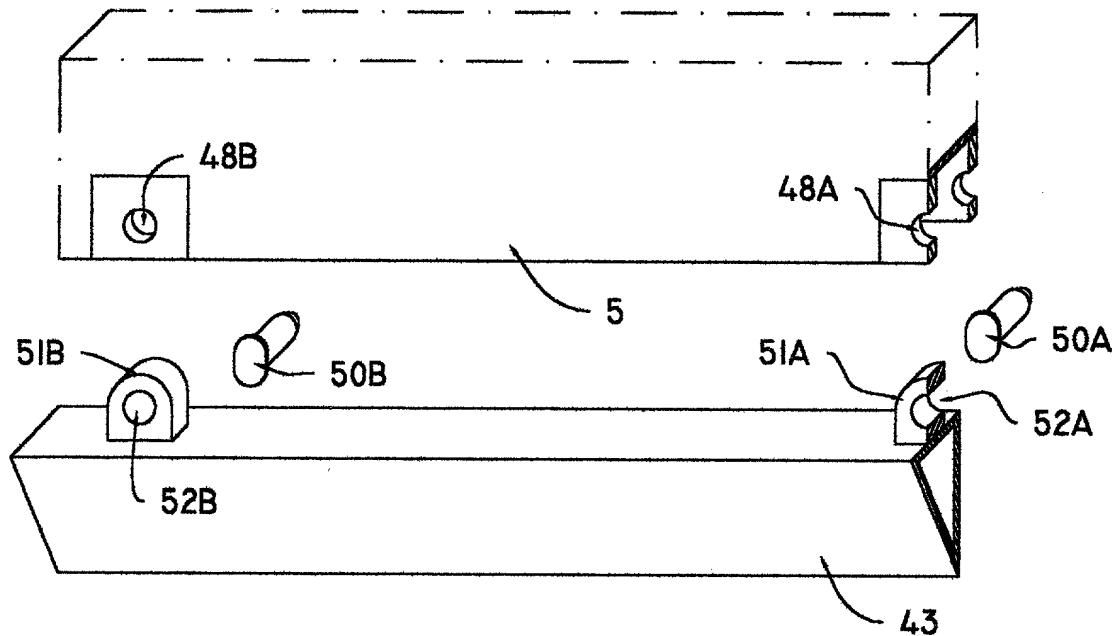


FIG. 12

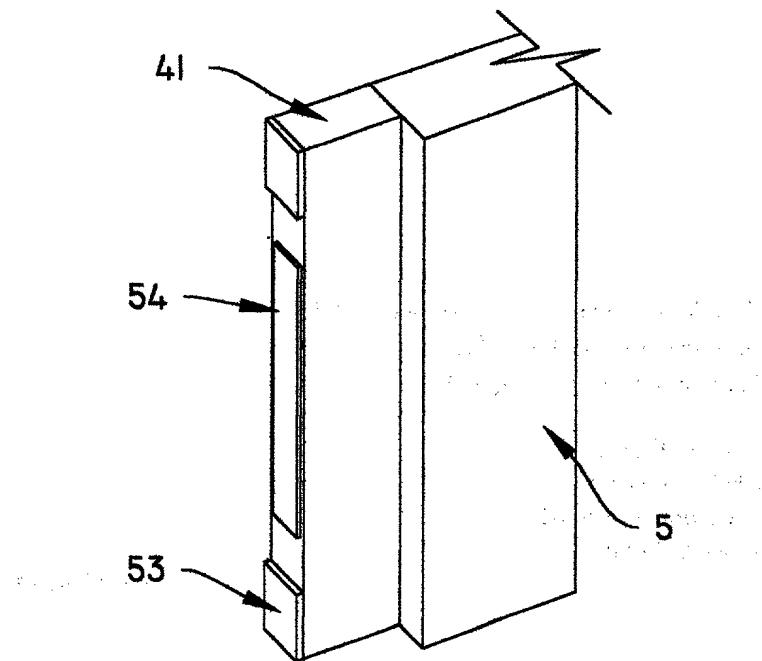


FIG. 13

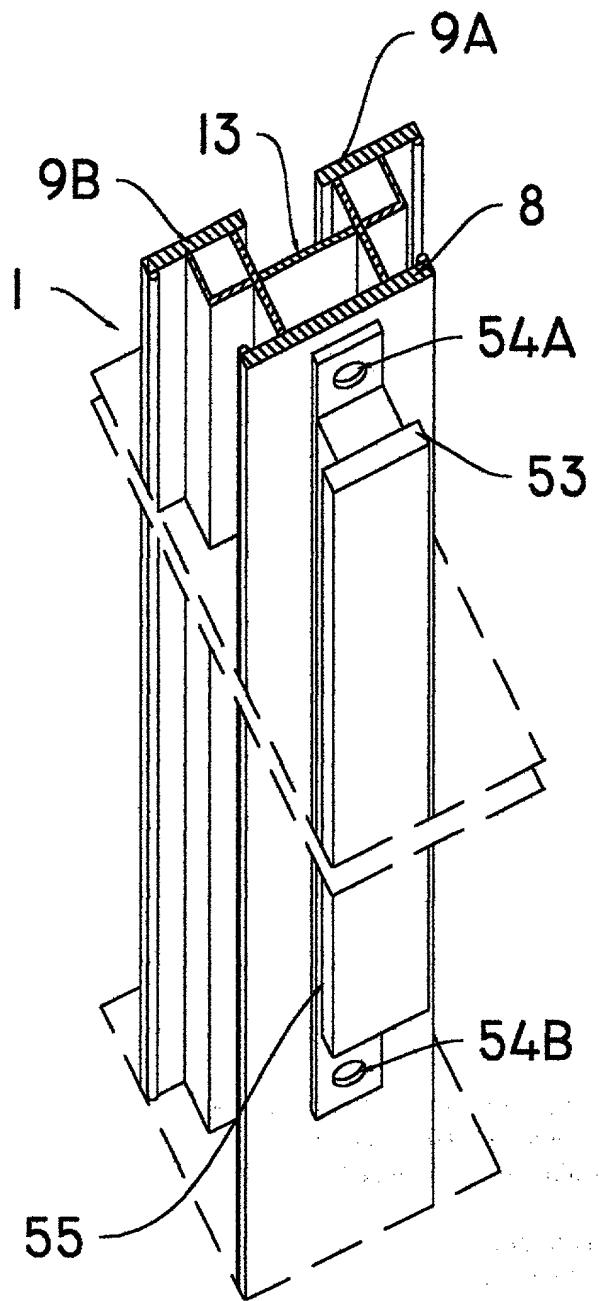


FIG. 14

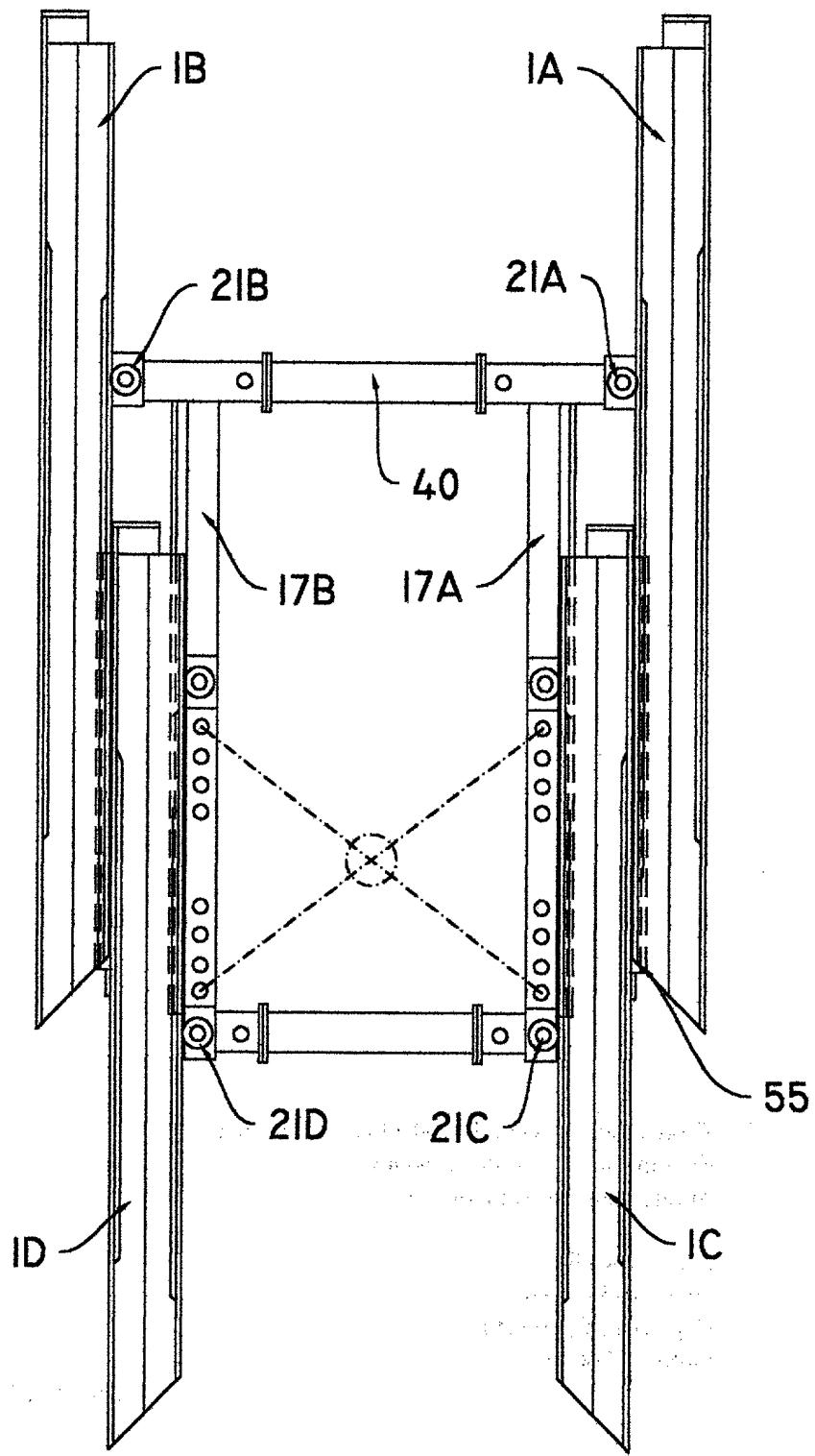


FIG. 15

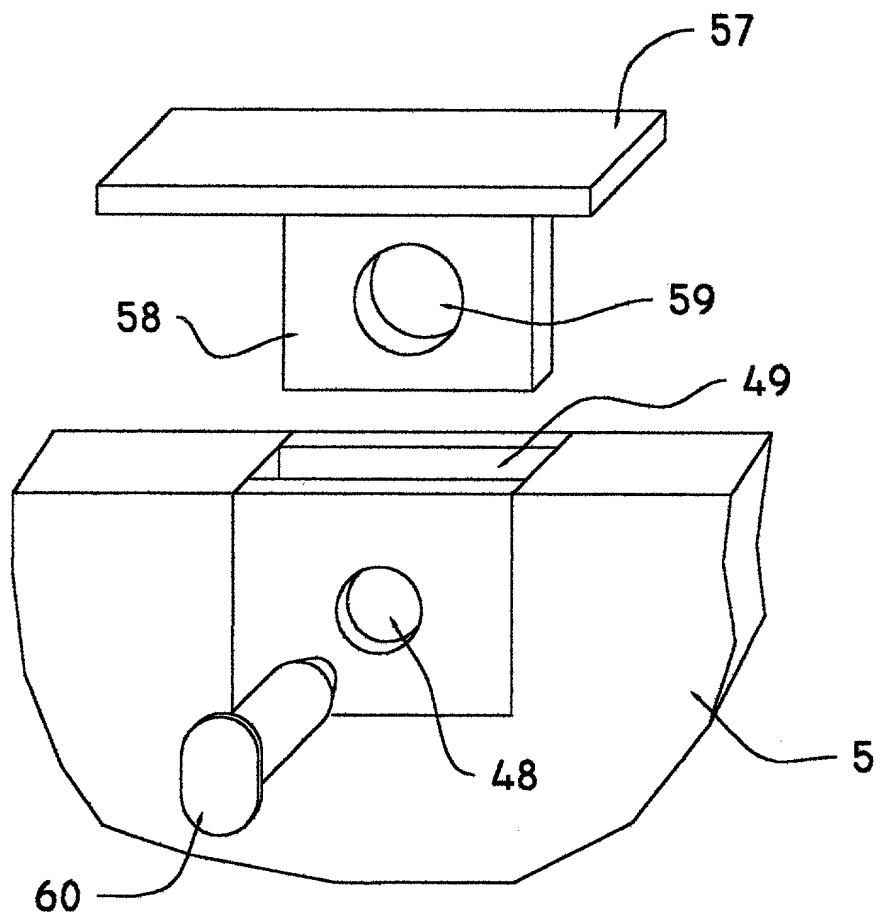


FIG. 16

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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Attorney Docket Number | |
| First Named Inventor | MAKSIM KADIU |
| COMPLETE IF KNOWN | |
| Application Number | / |
| Filing Date | |
| Group Art Unit | |
| Examiner Name | |

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

MAGNETIC SHORING DEVICE

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

is attached hereto

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

| Prior Foreign Application Number(s) | Country | Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Priority Not Claimed | Certified Copy Attached? |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

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[Page 1 of 2]

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| U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number | Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Parent Patent Number (if applicable) |
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| Name of Sole or First Inventor: | | <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor | | | | |
| Given Name (first and middle if any) | | | Family Name or Surname | | | |
| MAKSIM | | | KADIU | | | |
| Inventor's Signature |  Maksim Kadiu | | | | | Date 4-4-00 |
| Residence: City | CUPERTINO | State | CA | Country | USA | Citizenship AL |
| Post Office Address | CUPERTINO POST OFFICE | | | | | |
| Post Office Address | | | | | | |
| City | Cupertino | State | CA | ZIP 95014-9998 | Country | USA |
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